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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH  
LANSING

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**House Bills 4311-2 and 4262 (As Introduced)**

**Topic:** Interior Design  
**Sponsor:** Representative Meisner (House Bills 4311-2)  
Representative Huizenga (House Bill 4262)  
**Co-sponsors:** Representatives Donigan, Sak, Steil, Vagnozzi, Wojno, Farrah, Alma Smith, Gonzales, Gillard, Condino, Stewart, Hunter, Plakas, Hopgood, Miller, Gaffney, Huizenga, Accavitti, Jones, and Lipsey (House Bills 4311-2)  
Representatives Gaffney, Meisner, Donigan, Gosselin, Steil, and Pastor (House Bill 4262)  
**Committee:** House Commerce  
**Date Introduced:** February 15, 2005

**Date of Summary:** February 28, 2005

House Bill 4311 amends the Occupational Code to provide for licensure of individuals providing interior design services. "Interior design services" is defined in the bill as services in connection with design of interior spaces. This includes the preparation of design documents relative to finishes, systems furniture, furnishings, fixtures, equipment, lighting outlets and switching, and non-load-bearing interior partitions that do not materially affect the building mechanical, structural, electrical, or fire safety systems. "Materially affect" is a key term in the bill and is defined as activity that is either or both of the following:

- Has a substantial and negative impact on the health, safety, and welfare of the occupants of the interior space after installation of finishes, systems furniture, furnishings, fixtures, equipment, lighting, and interior building partitions based upon placement of material composition.
- Is incompatible with the applicable building code or fire safety code to such a degree that more than a minor modification of the interior design documents is needed to correct that incompatibility.

The bill creates a Board of Interior Design in the Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

The bill contains several exemptions from the licensure requirement so long as the individuals do not hold themselves out to be a licensed interior designer. These include:

- A person licensed under another regulated or licensed occupation or profession engaging in interior design services that are within the scope of that occupation or profession.

- An employee of a retail establishment providing services on the premises of a retail establishment or in the furtherance of a retail sale.
- A person engaging in interior design services on property owned or leased by that person.
- A person engaging in interior design services without compensation on property of another person.
- A person providing interior design services in a detached 1- or 2-family residence not exceeding 3,500 square feet of calculated floor area.
- An individual providing interior design services without a license but under the supervision of 1 or more licensees in order to obtain the necessary experience to be licensed.

Licenses will be issued for a term of 3 years. During the first year after the amendatory act, an individual is considered qualified for a license if he or she submits, by affidavit, proof of 6 years of combined education and experience in providing interior design services. At least 2 of those 6 years are required to be practical experience. A person on the list compiled under former Section 601a is eligible for a license if he or she applies within 1 year. All other applicants must pass the 2003 examination offered by the National Council for Interior Design Qualification or another examination considered by the board to be equivalent. Reciprocity is provided to licensees from outside Michigan if the jurisdiction has substantially similar requirements and allows reciprocity for Michigan licensees.

The department is required to establish standards of conduct for licensed interior designers in consultation with the board.

Continuing education is required to maintain eligibility for a license. A portion of the required clock hours must be in ethics. The department is required to ensure that all approved continuing education courses include defined measurements of pre-knowledge and post-knowledge or skill improvements, or both.

A licensed individual would be required to obtain and use a seal.

Prohibited activity subject to penalties under the Occupational Code includes:

- Presenting or attempting to use as the person's own the license or seal of another.
- Use of a protected term without being licensed.
- Submitting to a public official for approval an unsealed permit or a plan, report, or specification for filing as a public record.

Section 601a of the Occupational Code, the current interior designer list, is repealed.

House Bill 4312 provides fees for interior designers seeking licensure. These fees include a \$50 application processing fee and a \$50 annual fee, or \$150 in each license cycle.

House Bill 4262 amends the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act to incorporate language currently in department rules relating to sealing of documents by a

registered design professional. The language specifically permits interior design documents to be prepared by an interior design documents.

The bills are tie-barred.